THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) There are no proposals regarding reformation of the Cooperative Sugar Mills of Uttar Pradesh pending with National Cooperative Development Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Edible Oil

3844. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given an assurance to the "vegetable oil manufacturers" that they would consider the matter of the cheap imports of vegetable oil in bulk;

(b) if so, whether there is a likelyhood of the Indian vegetable oil industry reaching on the verge of closure due to such imports; and

(c) whether Government are taking any measure to prepare the vegetable oil industry which is now reeling under the pressure of the cheap imports to meet the challenges of the World Trade Agreement, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure that the domestic producers are not put to any hardship, the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within bound tariffs, imposition of antidumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.